

NSC BRIEFING

SEROV DISMISSAL

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- I. With the dismissal of Serov (announced in Izvestia 9 December), it looks ^{as if} like Khrushchev has finally gotten around to shaking up his secret police apparatus. 25X1
- A. Since pushing Malenkov out in 1955, he has revamped the party, and worked over the government and military leadership. Now we are going to see a new face in the top security service slot.
- II. Serov had held the job since 1954 and there have been no good indications of friction between him and Khrushchev.
- A. In fact, there were times when he was undoubtedly one of Khrushchev's fair-haired boys, particularly during the trouble with Malenkov and Molotov and later with Zhukov.
- III. Khrushchev has since become considerably more powerful, however, and he is in a position to prevent the KGB from becoming a source of power not completely under his control.
- IV. Khrushchev apparently tipped his hand when he told Senator Humphrey on 1 December that he intended to reduce the role of the secret police still further.
- A. The fact that no successor has been named could indicate that a major reorganization of the police apparatus is in the wind.
- B. While a dispute over police power may have arisen, we have had no information to suggest that the party and the KGB split over this issue or any other.
- C. We think Serov's removal is another testimony to Khrushchev's broadening power, rather than an indication of a major internal split.